

Dear Neighbor,

The 2024 legislative session is in the books, and I am proud of what we accomplished.

My goal for the session was to ensure we invested in our priorities while preserving tax cuts for families and seniors.

By passing our fiscal stabilization plan we protected the largest and second largest tax cuts in state history and ensured more retirement income would be tax-exempt.

We also filled our priority buckets by increasing funding for higher education, early childhood, mental health, and nonprofits. This newsletter has more details.

All my best,



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Cutting Taxes to Combat Historic Inflation
- Providing Quality Care for Seniors
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Making Childcare More Affordable and Accessible
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE MELISSA OSBORNE

PROUDLY SERVING SIMSBURY

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CAPITOL UPDATE 24

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MELISSA OSBORNE

CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Protected the Farmington River Watershed (PA 24-13)
- Banned numerous products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals (PA 24-59)
- Required better notice when herbicides are sprayed along railroads (PA 24-9)
- Expedited permitting for solar canopies and lifted caps on new solar production (HB 5232)



MAJOR WINS FOR SIMSBURY

- \$10 million in municipal aid to Simsbury
- Brought an additional \$2.1 million home to Simsbury, including:
 - \$530,000 for Latimer Lane
 - \$640,000 for the Housing Authority
 - \$900,000 for the Performing Arts Center

HONORING VETERANS & SENIORS

- Passed a 100% property tax abatement for permanently and totally disabled veterans (PA 24-46)
- Expanded grant eligibility for Military Families experiencing hardship (PA 24-57)
- Fast-tracked Medicaid coverage for home-based care (Pa 24-39)
- Limited nursing homes to two patients in a room (PA 24-141)

SUPPORTING HIGHER EDUCATION

- Invested at least \$160 million in additional funds for our state colleges and universities (PA 24-81)
- Expanded debt-free community college (PA 23-141)
- Expanded employer incentives for student loan repayment and reduced rates for state-backed loans for occupations with shortages (PA 24-52)

TAKING CARE OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE

- \$24 million in mental health treatment (PA 24-81)
- Protected crime victims by permitting courts to issue protective orders when an assailant is found Not Guilty by reason of insanity (PA 24-137)
- Protected domestic violence victims from coerced debt (PA 24-77)

PROTECTING OUR CONSUMERS

- Strengthened consumer safety with improved and more transparent cannabis laws and regulations (PA 24-76)
- Regulated new THC-infused drinks (PA 24-76)
- Created prevention education for businesses that sell e-cigarettes (PA 24-54)



OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES PROTECTING TAX CUTS

WE PASSED A BIPARTISAN BIENNIUM BUDGET THAT INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS AND INVESTMENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

- ✓ LARGEST INCOME TAX CUT in state history
- ✓ Biggest investment in public education ever
- ✓ New supports for the IDD community
- ✓ Expansion of debt free community college
- ✓ Protected safety net programs

THIS SESSION WE PROTECTED THESE TAX CUTS AND INVESTED MILLIONS OF FEDERAL FUNDS IN:

- ✓ Higher Education - \$160 million with a path to grow to \$200 million
- ✓ Early Childcare - \$21.8 million
- ✓ Mental Health - \$24 million
- ✓ Nonprofits - \$50 million



GROWING OUR ECONOMY

- Expanded the small business loan program and made it easier for out-of-state businesses to come to CT (PA 24-36)
- Established a trade commission with Ireland (PA 24-60)
- Made it easier for out-of-state nurses and social workers to move to and practice in CT (PA 24-83 and PA 24-30)
- Balanced support for working families and public health with the needs of small businesses by phasing in Paid Sick Leave over a three-year period (PA 24-8):
 - To use for yourself or to care for a loved one
 - Up to 40 hours per year
 - Implements a study on providing a tax credit to our smallest businesses